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Sure I'll lend you a pencil!

By Dave Craig

Morgan Selvidge Jr. High
Ballwin

Do you get upset when a child forgets to bring a pencil to class? Have you reprimanded students with the trite stories about the carpenter or doctor? How many pencils have you loaned and never seen again? Have you taught students to respond with anger when frustrated—as you were frustrated? Or, how many students' behavior have you reinforced by letting them show their fellow students that they can get you ruffled?

I have had a great deal of success with my practice of loaning pencils only with collateral. I never get upset. Never show anger. When a student forgets a pencil, I loan him a pencil. The only catch is that the student must put something up as collateral. A purse, shoe, belt, or some other article of value is put on par with the pencil. The pencil itself is usually of very poor quality, many times another student's castaway—a stub.

Not only does this procedure satisfy the student's immediate need for a pencil, but the student learns that he must return that pencil or face the consequences of losing his possession. It also illustrates the operation of a pawn shop to the poor who do not understand how their parents or brother lose many valuables. The student also learns not to expect any reinforcement from peers when he has to trade a shoe or belt for a stubby pencil discarded by another student.

Consequently, the student does not often forget his pencil! □

Auxiliary Personnel Booklet

A 16-PAGE BOOKLET ON "Auxiliary Personnel for Missouri Schools" has been prepared by the Missouri State Teachers Association Committee on Teacher Education and Professional Standards.

Included in the brochure are the requirements for instructional assistants and service aids, what their duties are and the role of the State Department of Education, the School District and the teacher are to auxiliary personnel.

An extensive reference list of recent literature on the subject has been prepared and is included in the publication.

Copies are available upon request from TEPS Committee, Missouri State Teachers Association, P. O. Box 458, Columbia, Missouri 65201.

